

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 16, 18, 19 and 34, and amend claims 24, 28 and 30-33, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently amended) A delivery device comprising the ~~controllably~~ biodegradable fibre according to claim 30, wherein the fibre contains a biologically active agent.

25. (Original) The delivery device according to claim 24, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine, a protein, a hormone, a living or dead cell, a bacteria, a virus or a part thereof.

26. (Original) The delivery device according to claim 25, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine.

27. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a delivery device according to claim 24.

28. (Currently amended) A method for administering a biologically active agent to a human or animal, wherein said method comprises implanting, injecting or mucosally attaching a delivery device, wherein said delivery device comprises a ~~controllably~~ biodegradable fibre according to claim 30 and wherein the fibre comprises a biologically active agent.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the biologically active agent is administered into a mammal.

30. (Currently amended) A biodegradable silica fibre spun from silica sol, a biodegradation rate of said fibre being adjusted by controlling the starting point of the spinning process by a viscosity of the silica sol wherefrom the fibre is spun, said fibre having a solubility rate in simulated body fluid of 0.2 to 20 wt-%/h.

31. (Currently amended) A biodegradable silica fibre according to claim 30, the solubility rate of the fibre in simulated body fluid being 0.2 to 8.5 wt-%/h.

32. (Currently amended) A biodegradable silica fibre spun from a silica sol, a biodegradation rate of the fibre being adjusted by controlling the viscosity of the spinning sol wherefrom the fibre is spun, said fibre having a solubility rate in simulated body fluid of 0.2 to 20 wt-%/h.

33. (Currently amended) A biodegradable silica fibre according to claim 32, the solubility rate of the fibre in simulated body fluid being 0.2 to 8.5 wt-%/h.

34. (Canceled).